A SHOCKINGLY SMART COMIC. -- COMICS ALLIANCE
MEGA MAN™
FLYNN
JAMPOLE
MARTIN
Archie ACTION!
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MEGA MAN™ | 53
Jason Piperberg

IN THE YEAR 20XX, A SUPER ROBOT NAMED MEGA MAN HAS PLEDGED TO STOP THE EVIL DESIRES OF DR. WILY AND PROTECT THE WORLD. MEGA MAN NOW FIGHTS ALONGSIDE HIS FELLOW ROBOT MASTERS TO DEFEAT THE FORCES OF EVIL!

CHARACTER SELECT

MEGA MAN™

MEGA MAN
BLUE BOMBER

DR. THOMAS LIGHT
MEGA MAN'S CREATOR

DR. ALBERT WILY
"DECEASED" EVIL GENIUS

MR. X
MYSTERIOUS LEADER OF THE X CORPORATION

PREVIOUSLY...

BLUE HERO!

Mega Man was originally built as **Rock**, robotic son and lab assistant to **Dr. Light**! When **Dr. Wily** tried to conquer the world, Mega Man chose to be weaponized so that he could fight for peace and save everyone!

But now the battle is over. As far as Mega Man knows, Dr. Wily is **dead**. The members of the terrorist group called the **Emerald Spears** have all been arrested. Their leader, **Xander Payne**, has vanished...

What does a super fighting robot do when there are no more battles to be won...?

SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: RYAN JAMPOLE INKS: GARY MARTIN
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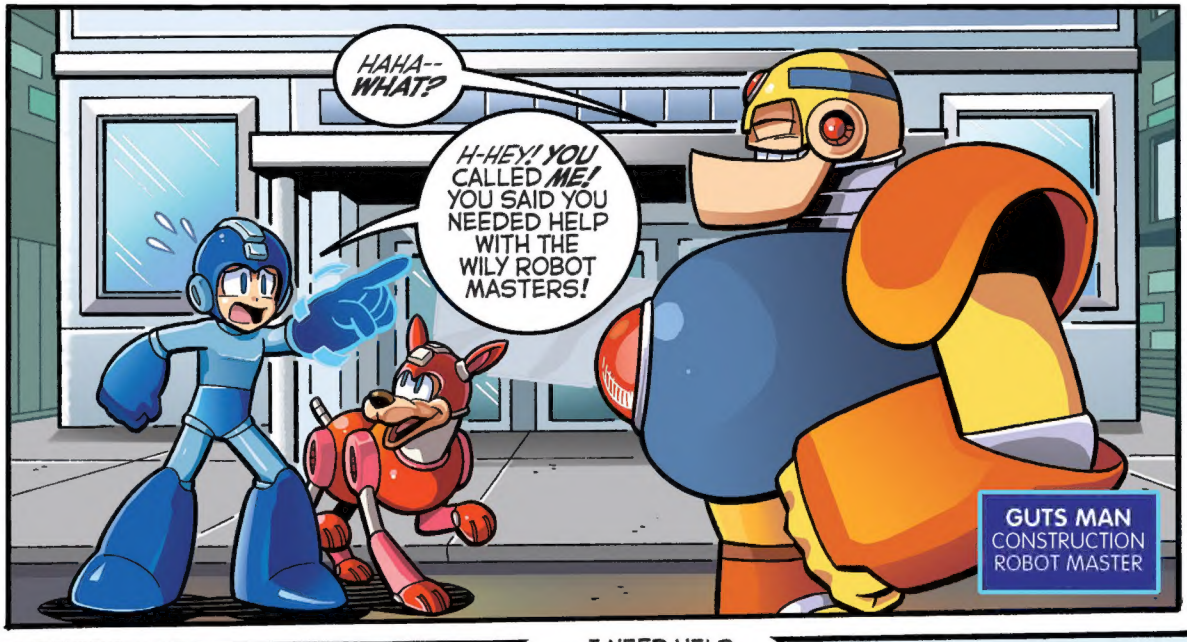
MEGA CITY...
HURRY, RUSH! GUTS MAN IS IN DANGER!
MEGA MAN
THE BLUE BOMBER
RUSH JET
TRANSFORMING ROBO-DOG

BLUE SHIFT

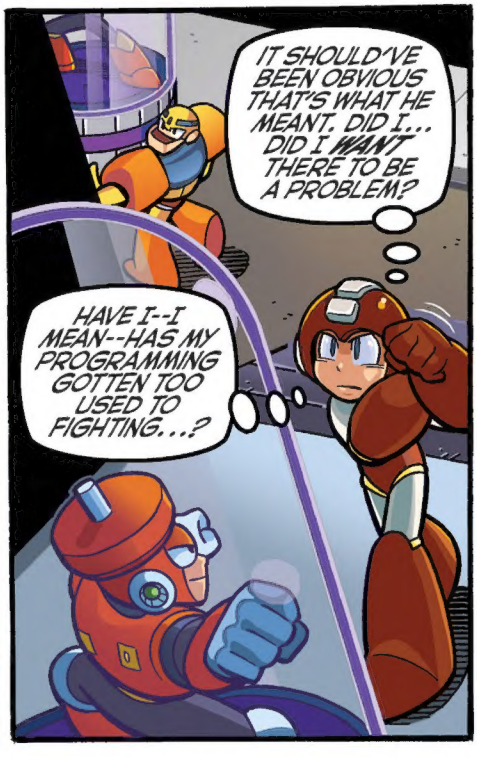
HOLD IT! PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND--!

BWAH HA HA HA! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?!
...COMING TO YOUR RESCUE?

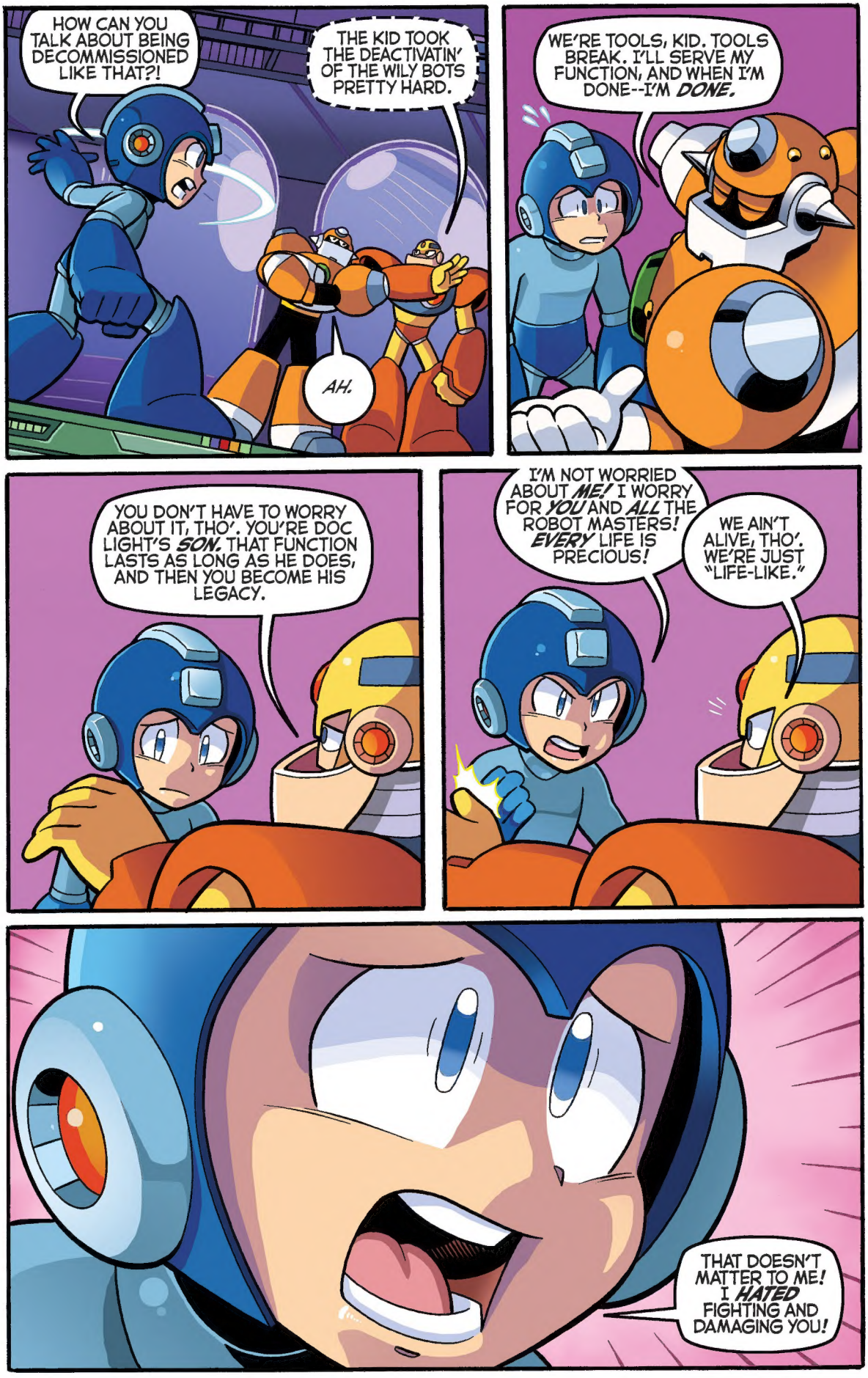

HAHA-- WHAT?
H-HEY! YOU CALLED ME! YOU SAID YOU NEEDED HELP WITH THE WILY ROBOT MASTERS!
GUTS MAN CONSTRUCTION ROBOT MASTER

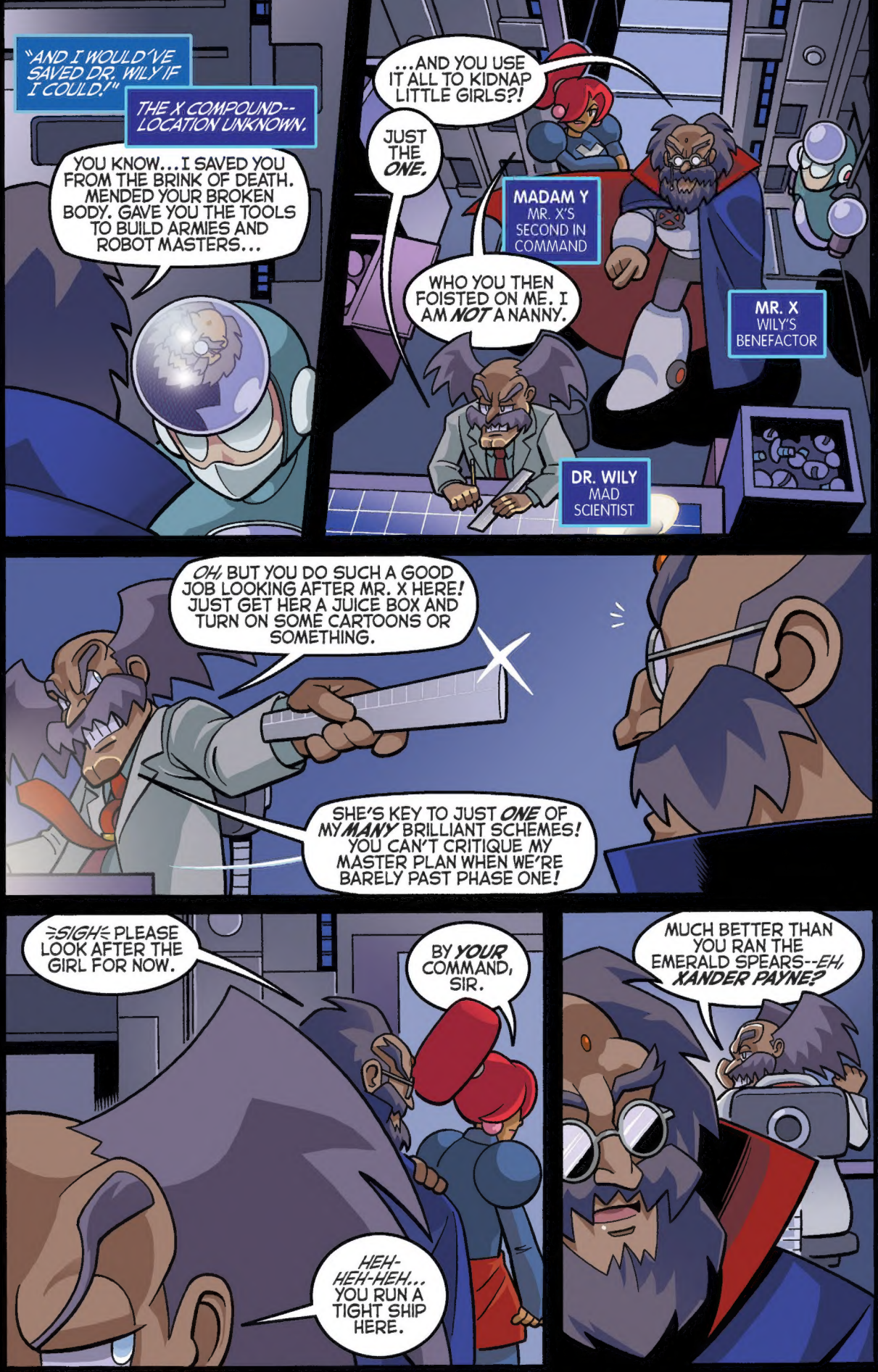
YEAH--
--I NEED HELP UNLOADING THEM INTO THE NEW ROBOT MUSEUM! THEY AIN'T GONNA HURT NOBODY NOW THAT DOC LIGHT TOOK 'EM OFFLINE!*
*MM #49.

AH-HA-HA... YEAH. MY BAD. SURE, I'LL LEND A HAND.
THANKS. YOU CAN RELAX NOW, Y'KNOW? NOT EVERYTHING IS A CRISIS.
WEAPON EQUIP! SUPER ARM


IT SHOULD'VE BEEN OBVIOUS THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT. DID I... DID I WANT THERE TO BE A PROBLEM?
HAVE I--I MEAN--HAS MY PROGRAMMING GOTTEN TOO USED TO FIGHTING...?

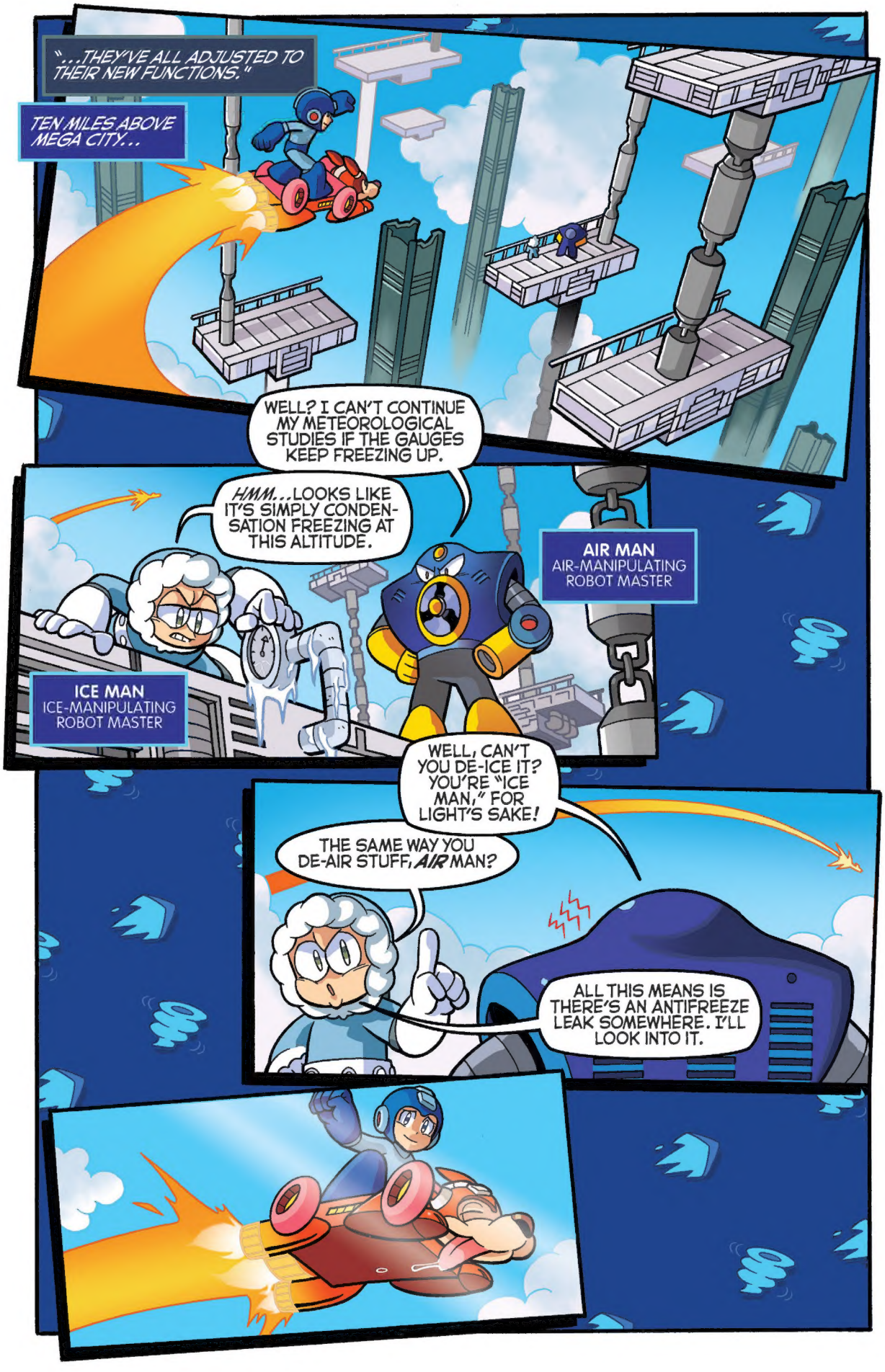
HEY! YOU WORKIN' HARD OR HARDLY WORKIN'?
HAR! I'M BUSY FINISHING THE INTERIOR. YOU HAVIN' TROUBLE CARRYIN' A WHOLE EIGHT CONTAINERS?
HEYA, MEGA MAN.
I...WELL... SHUDDUP!
HAHA! HI, CONCRETE MAN!
CONCRETE MAN CONSTRUCTION ROBOT MASTER
I KNEW MEGS COULD HELP ME DO THE JOB FASTER! WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER!
YEAH, 'CAUSE BOTH OF THESE ARE TOUGH FOR YOU!
OOOH! KEEP IT UP, DRIPPY, AND I WON'T LEAVE ENOUGH OF YOU TO BE DISPLAYED HERE!
GOOD THING YOU GOT A BIG JAW FOR ALL THEM BIG WORDS!
HA HA HA! HA
SERIOUSLY, THO'--I THINK I'D RATHER BE RECYCLED WHEN MY TIME'S UP. WASTE TAKES SPACE, AND I HATE WASTE.
YOU SAY THAT NOW. JUST WAIT 'TIL YOUR WARRANTY'S UP.
UH-HUH. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
OH, I'M DEFINITELY GOING ON DISPLAY WHEN I'M SHUT DOWN. FUTURE GENERATIONS GOTTA LEARN OF HOW PERFECT I WAS.
WHAT?!

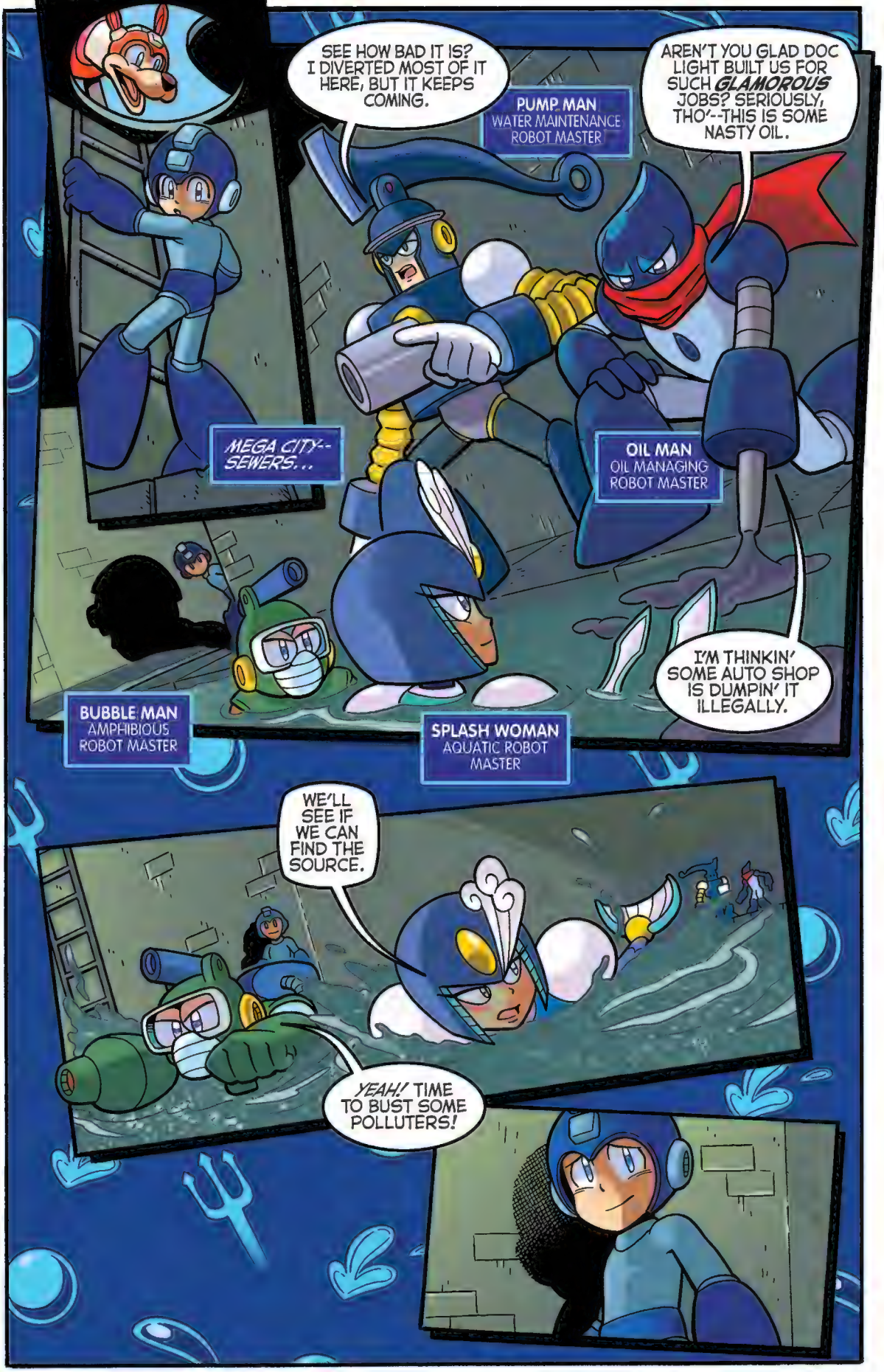

HOW CAN YOU TALK ABOUT BEING DECOMMISSIONED LIKE THAT?!
THE KID TOOK THE DEACTIVATIN' OF THE WILY BOTS PRETTY HARD.
AH.
WE'RE TOOLS, KID. TOOLS BREAK. I'LL SERVE MY FUNCTION, AND WHEN I'M DONE--I'M DONE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT, THO'. YOU'RE DOC LIGHT'S SON. THAT FUNCTION LASTS AS LONG AS HE DOES, AND THEN YOU BECOME HIS LEGACY.
I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT ME! I WORRY FOR YOU AND ALL THE ROBOT MASTERS! EVERY LIFE IS PRECIOUS!
WE AIN'T ALIVE, THO'. WE'RE JUST "LIFE-LIKE."
THAT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME! I HATED FIGHTING AND DAMAGING YOU!


"AND I WOULD'VE SAVED DR. WILY IF I COULD!"
THE X COMPOUND--LOCATION UNKNOWN.
YOU KNOW... I SAVED YOU FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH. MENDED YOUR BROKEN BODY. GAVE YOU THE TOOLS TO BUILD ARMIES AND ROBOT MASTERS...
...AND YOU USE IT ALL TO KIDNAP LITTLE GIRLS?!
JUST THE ONE.
MADAM Y MR. X'S SECOND IN COMMAND
WHO YOU THEN FOISTED ON ME. I AM NOT A NANNY.
MR. X WILY'S BENEFACTOR
DR. WILY MAD SCIENTIST
OH, BUT YOU DO SUCH A GOOD JOB LOOKING AFTER MR. X HERE! JUST GET HER A JUICE BOX AND TURN ON SOME CARTOONS OR SOMETHING.
SHE'S KEY TO JUST ONE OF MY MANY BRILLIANT SCHEMES! YOU CAN'T CRITIQUE MY MASTER PLAN WHEN WE'RE BARELY PAST PHASE ONE!
=SIGH= PLEASE LOOK AFTER THE GIRL FOR NOW.
BY YOUR COMMAND, SIR.
HEH-HEH-HEH... YOU RUN A TIGHT SHIP HERE.
MUCH BETTER THAN YOU RAN THE EMERALD SPEARS--EH, XANDER PAYNE?

HMPH. HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN?
I PUT IT TOGETHER AFTER...WELL, WHATEVER THAT SPACE-TIME ANOMALY WAS.*
MY MEMORY IS HAZY AT BEST. ALL I'M MISSING IS THE "HOW."
WHEN I FIRED INTO THE GENESIS PORTAL, THE TIMELINE COLLAPSED UPON ITSELF. I WAS CAST INTO THE TIME-STREAM AND WAS DROPPED ALMOST THIRTY YEARS IN THE PAST.
*MM #52--WORLDS UNITE PT. 12.
TO MY FRUSTRATION, I COULDN'T MAKE ANY CHANGES TO MY PAST...
...BUT I COULD PLOT A NEW COURSE FOR MY NEW LIFE. LOTTERIES, STOCK MARKETS, GAMBLING ON HISTORIC LONG-SHOTS--I USED MY MEMORIES OF THE PAST TO FUND THE X CORPORATION AND BRING ME TO THIS POINT IN TIME.
"XANDER PAYNE" NO LONGER EXISTS! THERE IS ONLY "MR. X"! FREE OF MY OLD PAST, I WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY TO THE LEGENDARY FUTURE I'VE SEEN!
ONE WHERE MAN IS NO LONGER MENACED BY MACHINES!

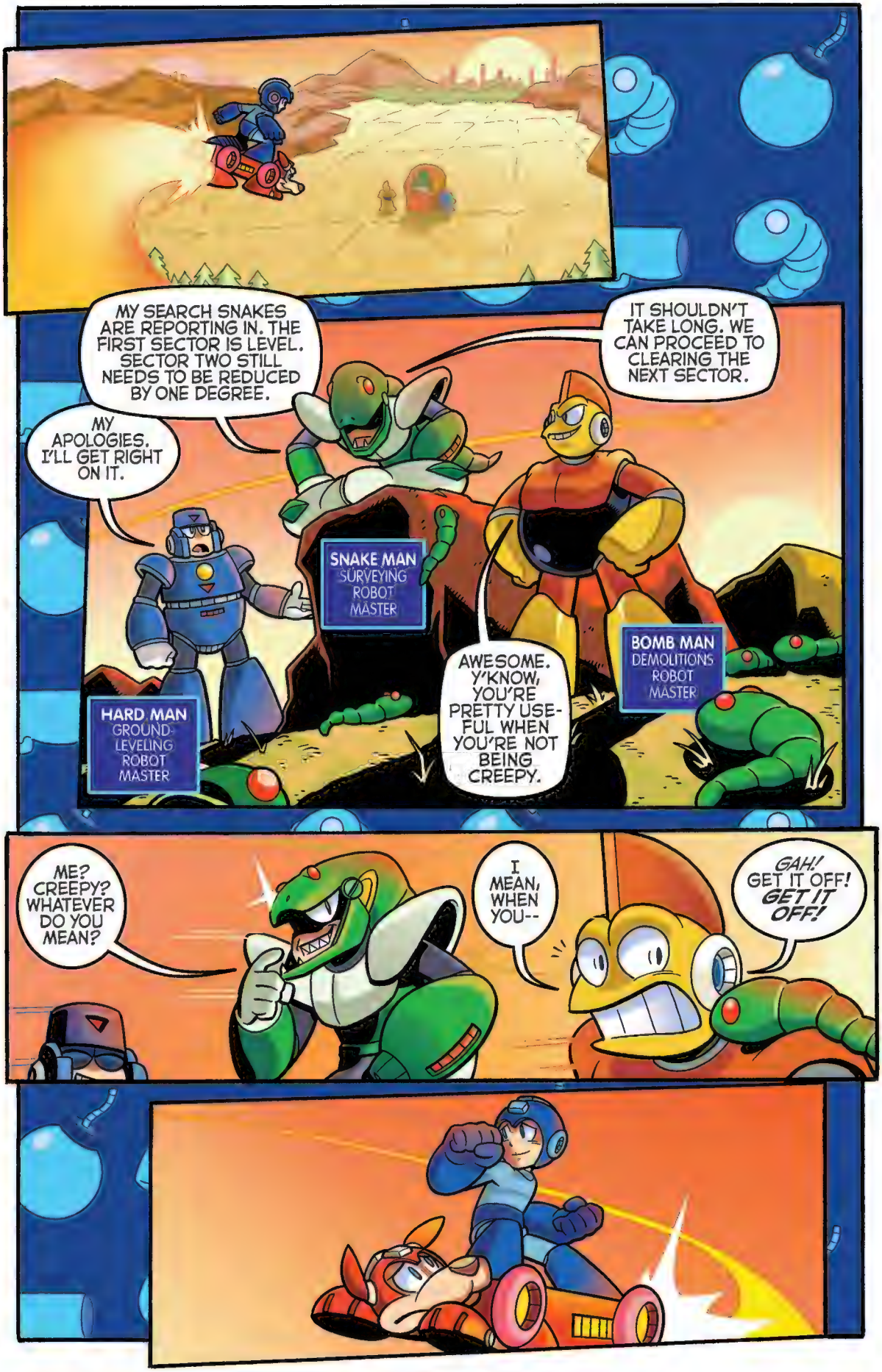
BWOO-WIP!
IMPRESSIVE! BRILLIANT, EVEN!
PRESUMING YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU LUNATIC. STILL, IT GIVES SOME CREDENCE TO ONE OF MY RISKIER PLANS...
MASTER WILY.
AH! MY MOST LOYAL ROBOT MASTER! REPORT!
CONSTRUCTION ON YOUR CASTLE BASES PROCEEDS ON SCHEDULE. I HAVE DETECTED NO TREACHERY ON THE PART OF YOUR NEW "PARTNER"...
SHADOW MAN
NINJA ROBOT MASTER
...AND THE WORLD STILL BELIEVES YOU TO BE DEAD. NO ONE WILL BE PREPARED FOR YOUR RETURN.
HA HA HA! EXCELLENT!
DON'T LEAVE ME HANGING. THAT'S AN ORDER.
CLAP!
I KNOW EIGHT OF MY ROBOT MASTERS ARE CURRENTLY OFFLINE. WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER SEVEN?
HMPH. THE TRAITORS HAVE NO IDEA I'M STILL MEETING WITH YOU. IN FACT...


"...THEY'VE ALL ADJUSTED TO THEIR NEW FUNCTIONS."
TEN MILES ABOVE MEGA CITY...
WELL? I CAN'T CONTINUE MY METEOROLOGICAL STUDIES IF THE GAUGES KEEP FREEZING UP.
HMM...LOOKS LIKE IT'S SIMPLY CONDENSATION FREEZING AT THIS ALTITUDE.
AIR MAN
AIR-MANIPULATING ROBOT MASTER
ICE MAN
ICE-MANIPULATING ROBOT MASTER
WELL, CAN'T YOU DE-ICE IT? YOU'RE "ICE MAN," FOR LIGHT'S SAKE!
THE SAME WAY YOU DE-AIR STUFF, AIR MAN?
ALL THIS MEANS IS THERE'S AN ANTIFREEZE LEAK SOMEWHERE. I'LL LOOK INTO IT.


SEE HOW BAD IT IS? I DIVERTED MOST OF IT HERE, BUT IT KEEPS COMING.
PUMP MAN
WATER MAINTENANCE ROBOT MASTER
AREN'T YOU GLAD DOC LIGHT BUILT US FOR SUCH GLAMOROUS JOBS? SERIOUSLY, THO'--THIS IS SOME NASTY OIL.
MEGA CITY--SEWERS...
OIL MAN
OIL MANAGING ROBOT MASTER
I'M THINKIN' SOME AUTO SHOP IS DUMPIN' IT ILLEGALLY.
BUBBLE MAN
AMPHIBIOUS ROBOT MASTER
SPLASH WOMAN
AQUATIC ROBOT MASTER
WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN FIND THE SOURCE.
YEAH! TIME TO BUST SOME POLLUTERS!

CHRONOS INSTITUTE...
...MEANING WE'D HAVE TO STOP THE TACHYON BOMBARDMENT, NOT SLOW IT! I REALIZE YOU'RE AN EARLY TEST MODEL, BUT TRY TO KEEP UP!
WHAT YOU'RE FAILING TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IS THE INVERSE EFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON GRAVITON LEVELS! OR DO YOU WANT TO IRRADIATE THE TIME SKIMMER?!
FLASH MAN TIME-STOPPING ROBOT MASTER
TIME MAN TIME-SLOWING ROBOT MASTER
SLOWING THE TACHYONS WOULD KEEP THE INVERSION LOW...
STOPPING THEM IN A SOLID-STATE FIELD AROUND THE TIME SKIMMER WOULD DECREASE TEMPORAL DRAG...
A COMPROMISE THEN? AGREED.

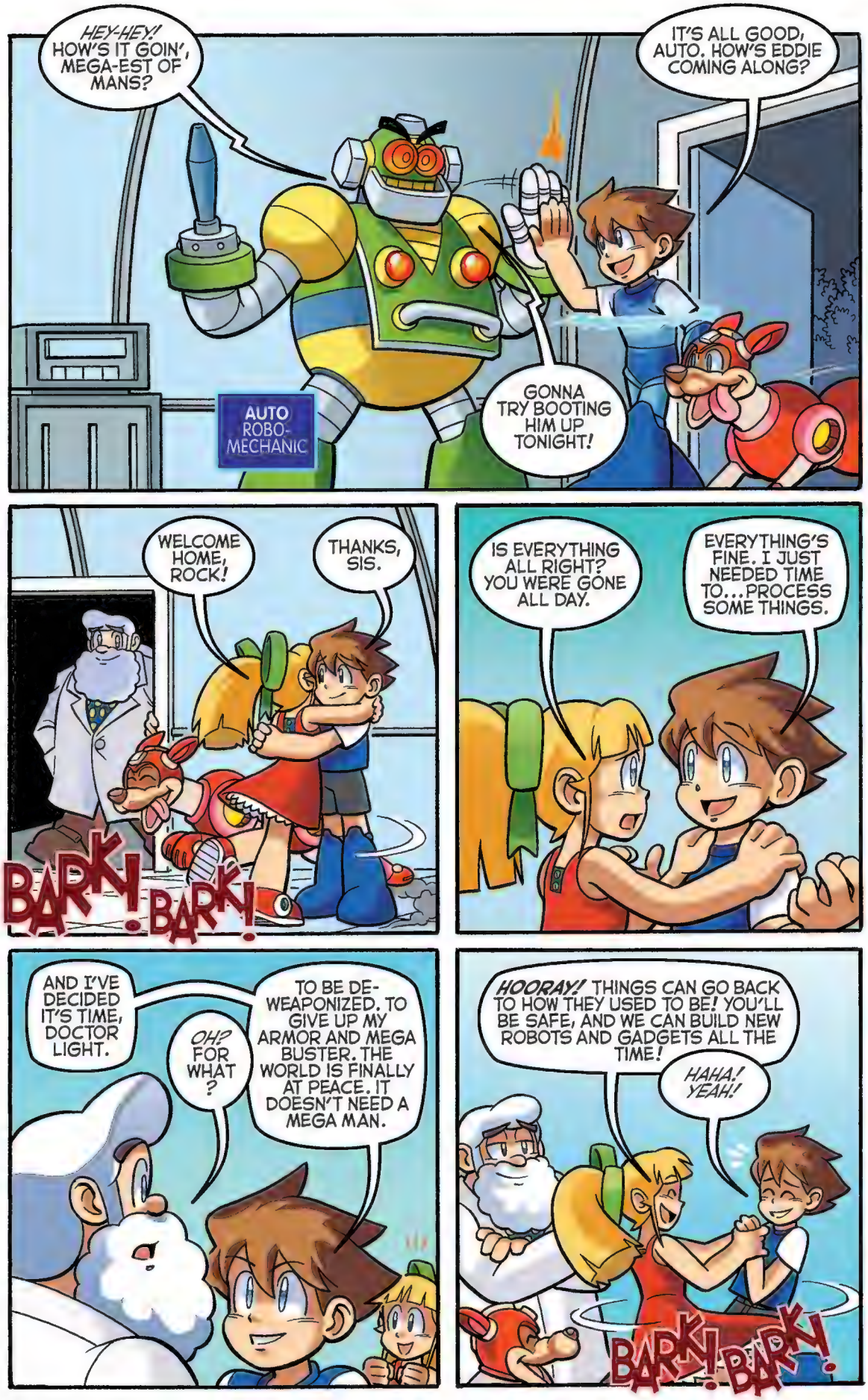
NATIONAL PARK...
HMM... NO, IT'S TOO SICK. THIS ONE WILL HAVE TO BE FELLED AND REPLACED WITH A SYNTHETIC TREE.
DON'T SOUND SAD, SIR. THIS HAS BEEN HERE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.
CUT MAN FORESTRY ROBOT MASTER
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE TRUNK-CATING ITS LIFE!
WOOD MAN ARBOREAL ROBOT MASTER
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT YOU'D RUN OUT OF TREE-RELATED PUNS...
HEY! IF A TREE FALLS IN THE WOODS, AND THERE ISN'T A ROBOT AROUND, IS THERE AN AUDIO SAMPLE TO PROCESS?
=SIGH=
SNICKER

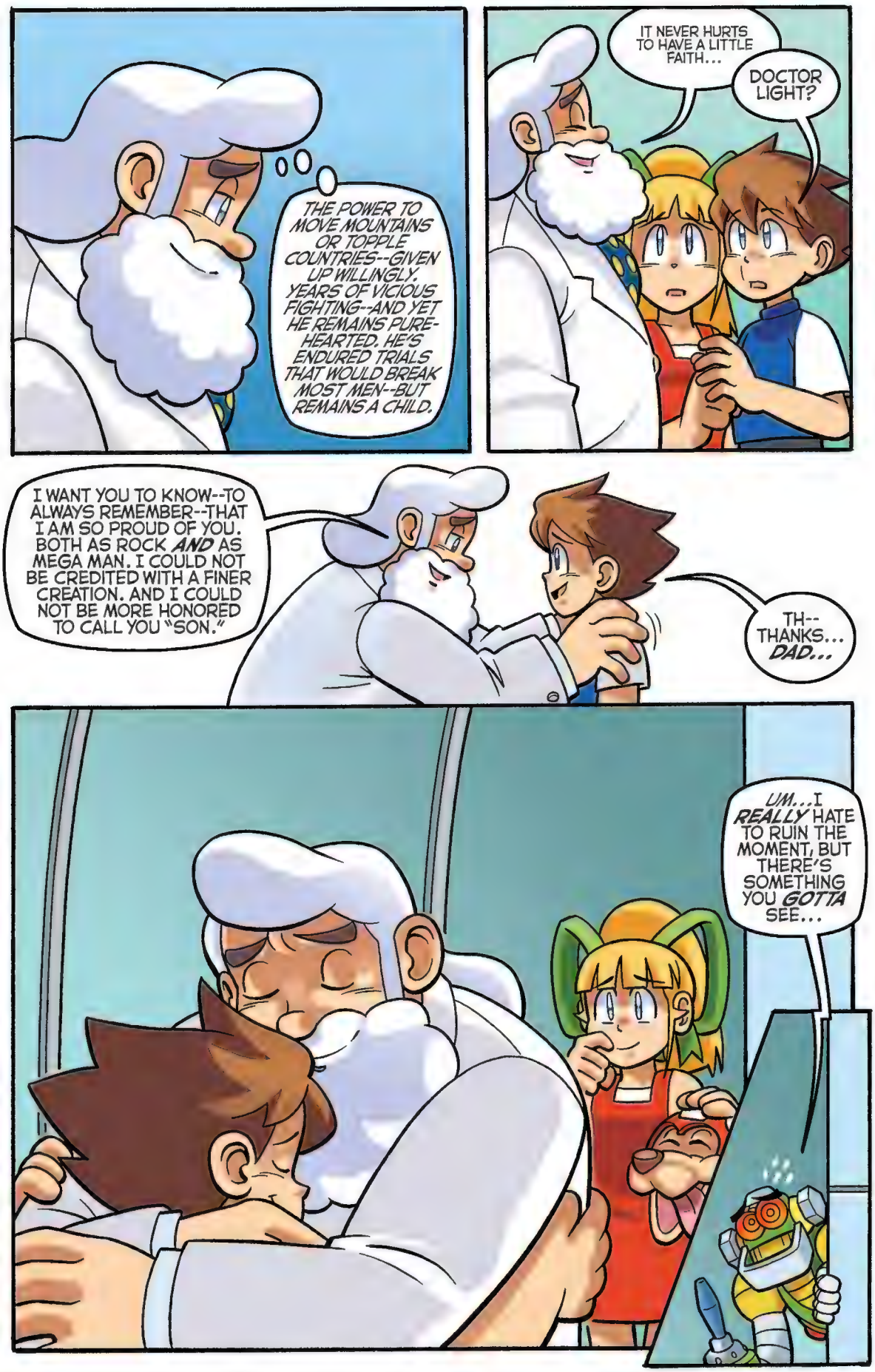

MY SEARCH SNAKES ARE REPORTING IN. THE FIRST SECTOR IS LEVEL. SECTOR TWO STILL NEEDS TO BE REDUCED BY ONE DEGREE.
IT SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG. WE CAN PROCEED TO CLEARING THE NEXT SECTOR.
MY APOLOGIES. I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT.
SNAKE MAN SURVEYING ROBOT MASTER
HARD MAN GROUND-LEVELING ROBOT MASTER
BOMB MAN DEMOLITIONS ROBOT MASTER
AWESOME. Y'KNOW, YOU'RE PRETTY USE-FUL WHEN YOU'RE NOT BEING CREEPY.
ME? CREEPY? WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN, WHEN YOU--
GAH! GET IT OFF! GET IT OFF!

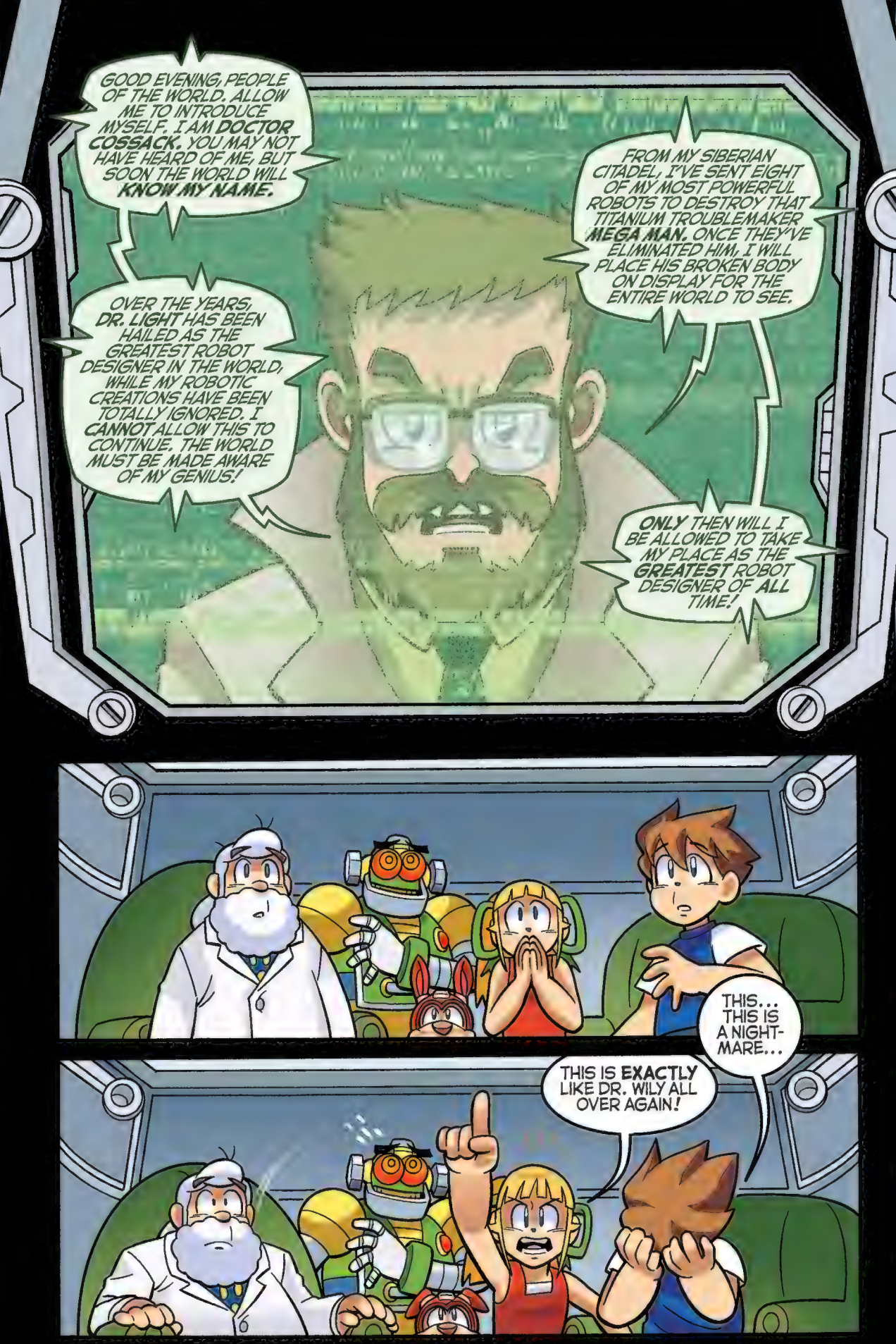
MEGA CITY--
POWER PLANT...
ALMOST DONE HERE. HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP?
SPARK MAN
ELECTRICITY-CONTROLLING ROBOT MASTER
OH, I'M JUST FINE! I CAN KEEP BOTH OF THESE RUNNING ALL NIGHT IF I HAVE TO!
ELEC MAN
POWER REGULATING ROBOT MASTER
THERE! THE REPAIRS ARE COMPLETE, AND WITH ZERO POWER-LOSS TO THE CITY. NICE WORK.
HEE HEE! THANKS! YOU, TOO!

MEGA CITY--WASTE PROCESSING CENTER...
...SO I CHECKED IN ON ALL OF DR. LIGHT'S ROBOT MASTERS, AND ALL THE REFORMED WILY BOTS, AND THEY'RE ALL DOING GREAT.
I DIDN'T WANT TO INTERRUPT THEM. I JUST WANTED TO SEE IF THEY WERE HAPPY.
WERE THEY?
YEAH...
FIRE MAN
INCINERATOR
ROBOT MASTER
THEY ALL SEEM SO CONTENT IN THEIR FUNCTIONS. SO WHY CAN'T I FEEL THE SAME WAY?
I WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT FOR PEACEFUL FUNCTIONS. BUT I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO STOP BEING MEGA MAN. DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T BE HAPPY UNLESS I'M FIGHTING?
DO I HAVE TO DO WHAT I HATE SO I CAN FEEL FULFILLED?
LISTEN HERE, PARDNER. IT ISN'T THE FIGHTING THAT SUSTAINS YOU. IT'S HELPING PEOPLE.
I'M THINKIN' YOU'RE AFRAID YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP EVERYONE IF YOU'RE NOT MEGA MAN ANYMORE.
BUT YOUR FIGHTIN' IS OVER. YOU'VE BROUGHT JUSTICE TO THE WORLD.
IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO HANG UP THE ARMOR NOW. YOU CAN BRING ABOUT A BETTER FUTURE WITH DR. LIGHT AS ROCK.
THANKS, FIRE MAN. I REALLY OUGHT TO HANG OUT WITH YOU MORE OFTEN.
THAT'D BE FINE BY ME. NOW, YOU GET ON BACK TO LIGHT LABS...

"...I'M SURE DOCTOR LIGHT NEEDS SOME REASSURING, TOO."
AND HERE WE ARE! THE HUMBLE BEGINNINGS OF LIGHT LABS!
HMPH. YOU ALWAYS DID LIKE ALLITERATION...
JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE SOME OF THE SCHEMATICS I'VE DRAWN UP! I'LL MAKE OUR DOCTORAL THESIS WORK LOOK LIKE JUNK!
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, TOM? I MEAN...YOU'RE ALREADY SCORING MILITARY CONTRACTS WHILE I'VE HIT ROCK BOTTOM.
BLUES PRINTS!
WHY ARE YOU EVEN TALKING TO ME?
BECAUSE THERE'S GOOD IN EVERYONE, AL. I KNOW YOU'RE BRILLIANT. I KNOW, WITH A SECOND CHANCE, YOU CAN CREATE GREAT THINGS.
HEH...BRING IT BACK TO ZERO, EH? START FROM SCRATCH?
START OVER, BUT NOT FROM NOTHING. I'LL HELP YOU OUT.
IT NEVER HURTS TO HAVE A LITTLE FAITH IN SOMEONE!
ROCK IS HOME! C'MON, DOCTOR LIGHT!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, DEAR.
DR. LIGHT
KIND-HEARTED CREATOR
ROLL
MEGA MAN'S SISTER


HEY-HEY! HOW'S IT GOIN', MEGA-EST OF MANS?
IT'S ALL GOOD, AUTO. HOW'S EDDIE COMING ALONG?
AUTO ROBO-MECHANIC
GONNA TRY BOOTING HIM UP TONIGHT!
WELCOME HOME, ROCK!
THANKS, SIS.
BARK! BARK!
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT? YOU WERE GONE ALL DAY.
EVERYTHING'S FINE. I JUST NEEDED TIME TO...PROCESS SOME THINGS.
AND I'VE DECIDED IT'S TIME, DOCTOR LIGHT.
OH? FOR WHAT?
TO BE DE-WEAPONIZED. TO GIVE UP MY ARMOR AND MEGA BUSTER. THE WORLD IS FINALLY AT PEACE. IT DOESN'T NEED A MEGA MAN.
HOORAY! THINGS CAN GO BACK TO HOW THEY USED TO BE! YOU'LL BE SAFE, AND WE CAN BUILD NEW ROBOTS AND GADGETS ALL THE TIME!
HAHA! YEAH!
BARK! BARK!


THE POWER TO MOVE MOUNTAINS OR TOPPLE COUNTRIES--GIVEN UP WILLINGLY. YEARS OF VICIOUS FIGHTING--AND YET HE REMAINS PURE-HEARTED. HE'S ENDURED TRIALS THAT WOULD BREAK MOST MEN--BUT REMAINS A CHILD.
IT NEVER HURTS TO HAVE A LITTLE FAITH...
DOCTOR LIGHT?
I WANT YOU TO KNOW--TO ALWAYS REMEMBER--THAT I AM SO PROUD OF YOU. BOTH AS ROCK *AND* AS MEGA MAN. I COULD NOT BE CREDITED WITH A FINER CREATION. AND I COULD NOT BE MORE HONORED TO CALL YOU "SON."
TH--THANKS... *DAD...*
*UM...I **REALLY** HATE TO RUIN THE MOMENT, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING YOU **GOTTA** SEE...*


GOOD EVENING, PEOPLE OF THE WORLD. ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. I AM DOCTOR COSSACK. YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD OF ME, BUT SOON THE WORLD WILL KNOW MY NAME.
OVER THE YEARS, DR. LIGHT HAS BEEN HAILED AS THE GREATEST ROBOT DESIGNER IN THE WORLD, WHILE MY ROBOTIC CREATIONS HAVE BEEN TOTALLY IGNORED. I CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE. THE WORLD MUST BE MADE AWARE OF MY GENIUS!
FROM MY SIBERIAN CITADEL, I'VE SENT EIGHT OF MY MOST POWERFUL ROBOTS TO DESTROY THAT TITANIUM TROUBLEMAKER MEGA MAN. ONCE THEY'VE ELIMINATED HIM, I WILL PLACE HIS BROKEN BODY ON DISPLAY FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD TO SEE.
ONLY THEN WILL I BE ALLOWED TO TAKE MY PLACE AS THE GREATEST ROBOT DESIGNER OF ALL TIME!
THIS... THIS IS A NIGHT-MARE...
THIS IS EXACTLY LIKE DR. WILY ALL OVER AGAIN!

YES ...YES, IT IS.
"TITANIUM TROUBLEMAKER"... "YOU ALWAYS LIKED YOUR ALLITERATION"...
DOCTOR LIGHT? HAVE YOU FIGURED SOMETHING OUT?
NO...BUT I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS. MIKHAIL IS THE HUMBLEST MAN I'VE EVER MET. THIS DOESN'T SOUND LIKE HIM AT ALL.
NOR WOULD HE DO SOMETHING SO BRAZEN AND PUT KALINKA AT RISK.
NO... SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH MY FRIEND.
BUT AFTER EVERYTHING DR. WILY HAS DONE, NO ONE IS GOING TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE! THEY'LL JUST ASSUME HE'S ANOTHER EVIL ROBOTICIST!
HIS ROBOT MASTERS WILL COME UNDER ATTACK. THERE'S NOBODY TO STAND BETWEEN THEM AND THE PEOPLE THEY MIGHT HURT...
LOOKS LIKE THE WORLD STILL NEEDS MEGA MAN AFTER ALL.
I'M SO SORRY, SON. SAVE MY FRIEND. SAVE HIS LIFE'S WORK. ONLY *YOU* CAN DO THIS.
I--I'LL TRY TO CALL KALINKA. SEE IF SHE KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON...

MEGA MAN'S NEXT ADVENTURE AWAITS!

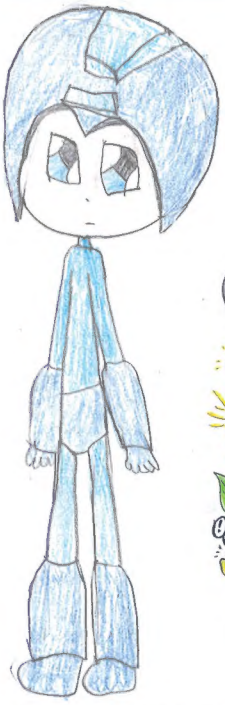
BREAK MAN RETURNS NEXT TIME IN **MEGA MAN #54!**
AND DON'T FORGET TO CATCH ***ALL*** THE PREVIOUS ADVENTURES WITH THE ***GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!***

MEGA MAIL PRESENTS

MASTER WORKS

YOUR MEGA MAN FAN ART

Serean R. sent to MegaMan@ArchieComics.com



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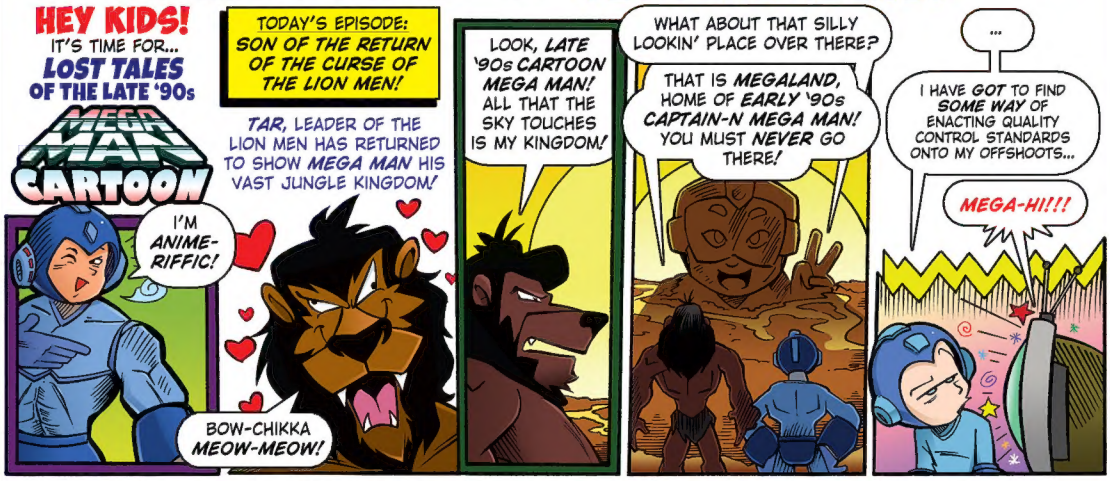
Ranindya P.P.N. sent to MegaMan@ArchieComics.com

Michael P. sent to MegaMan@ArchieComics.com

ART WILL NOT BE RETURNED. SPACE LIMITATIONS MAY REQUIRE SOME PRINTED ART TO BE EDITED. ALL YOUR LETTERS & FAN ART ARE APPRECIATED!

-SHORT-CIRCUITS

SIZZLING CIRCUITS! OR VIVA LAS MEGAS!


HEY KIDS! IT'S TIME FOR... LOST TALES OF THE LATE '90s
MEGA MAN CARTOON
I'M ANIME-RIFFIC!
TODAY'S EPISODE: SON OF THE RETURN OF THE CURSE OF THE LION MEN!
TAR, LEADER OF THE LION MEN HAS RETURNED TO SHOW MEGA MAN HIS VAST JUNGLE KINGDOM!
BOW-CHIKKA MEOW-MEOW!
LOOK, LATE '90s CARTOON MEGA MAN! ALL THAT THE SKY TOUCHES IS MY KINGDOM!
WHAT ABOUT THAT SILLY LOOKIN' PLACE OVER THERE?
THAT IS MEGALAND, HOME OF EARLY '90s CAPTAIN-N MEGA MAN! YOU MUST NEVER GO THERE!
...
I HAVE GOT TO FIND SOME WAY OF ENACTING QUALITY CONTROL STANDARDS ONTO MY OFFSHOOTS...
MEGA-HI!!!

SCRIPT & PENCILS: *JONATHAN H. GRAY* INKS: *RICK BRYANT* COLORS: *ALEAH BAKER*

MEGA MAIL

WRITE TO US @: MEGA-MAIL C/O ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC. 629 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 100 PELHAM, NY 10803-1242 E-MAIL: MEGAMAN@ARCHIECOMICS.COM OR TWEET AT US USING #MEGAMAIL!

...Aaand we're back! Didja miss us? We missed you, dearest readers! In fact, we missed you so much that we're dedicating this and EVERY letter column to YOU! Ain't that nice? Ain't that spiffy? Doesn't that make you wanna grin from ear to ear? Here's to you, our SUPER AMAZING and SUPER AWESOME fans of Mega Man! Y'all are the best!

Today we're going to change gears and focus on one very important letter from a mom whose kids also read Mega Man, just like you! Let's begin...

Dear 'Mega Mail,'
My son adores Mega Man and Sonic. He reads them for hours on end. So I have a very personal reason for writing this request: *can Roll please ditch the broom and dustpan?!!!??* I love how the Sonic comics contain characters of different kinds of ability and plenty of strong female characters, most of whom are not connected romantically to anyone. Thank you for that. My son can play Sonic with girls and they get to be powerful, too! So I'm even more confused how it is that after 50 issues and as many plot lines past and future, the only female character in the Mega Man series is still mopping up around the house. How hard would it be to issue her a red costume and a (different but cool) blaster? Please???? Thanks for reading.

A concerned mother,
Dana S. sent to
MegaMan@ArchieComics.com

It's not often we get a parent that writes to us, so thank you for that, Dana! Your comments did not fall on deaf ears and are greatly appreciated! Let's see if we can help ease some of your worries!

We have taken great strides to make sure that Roll is more than just a girl with a mop and is, instead, someone all readers can relate to as a person. She's Rock's support and confidante in times of need. She keeps her father, Dr. Light, from falling apart at the seams. And, as shown in Worlds Collide, she's the only one Proto Man will let fix his circuitry. Roll is the glue that holds her family together!

In fact, we have an entire issue showcasing Roll's strengths in the Mega Man vol. 5 graphic novel, "Rock of Ages"! Be sure to check it out!

Beyond Roll, there are a few more female characters of note, like Dr. Noelle Lalinde, a genius in robotics on par with Dr. Light and Dr. Wily. She is also the creator of Quake Woman—also a hero just like Mega Man! There's also Rosalyn Krantz, the analytical policewoman partner of Gil Stern. Splash Woman keeps watch over the oceans and there's even the diabolical Madam Y, the no-nonsense, evil assistant to Mr. X! These ladies are strong individuals who are not tied to another character or defined by other characters. They are their own persons. We hope the ladies that we have in our book showcase a diverse range of people and personalities! We're always looking to incorporate great characters like them!

As usual, we appreciate everyone's feedback!

And that's that! We'll see y'all next issue! Until then, take care, gang!

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NEXT ISSUE:
MEGA MAN™ 54
SPAZ
RED SHIFT